

Application No.: 09/656,309

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Docket No.: 564462001620

**REMARKS****Status of the Claims*****Pending claims***

Claims 53 to 64 are pending.

***Claims allowed***

Claims 53 and 55 to 64 have been allowed.

***Outstanding Rejections***

Claim 54 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse all outstanding rejections of the claims.

**Issues under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph**

Claim 54 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The only remaining issue is the appropriateness of the trademark status of the phrase "Gene Site Saturation Mutagenesis™ (GSSM)™". This instant amendment addresses this issue. The symbol "™" has been removed from the phrase "Gene Site Saturation Mutagenesis (GSSM)".

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is believed that the Examiner can properly withdraw the rejection of claim 54 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants believe all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present response and amendment. However, in the event any such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 564462001620. Please credit any overpayment to this account.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned at 858 720 5133.

Dated: April 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory P. Einhorn

Registration No.: 38,440

MORRISON &amp; FOERSTER LLP

3811 Valley Centre Drive

Suite 500

San Diego, California 92130-2332

(858) 720-5133

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